

**Workforce Development Council**  
**Executive Committee**  
December 11, 2006

**Meeting Notes**

**1) Final Review of full Council Meeting Agenda** - The final agenda was reviewed and times were adjusted. Chip will provide Frank with an annotated copy including talking points on each item. The Governor will be attending and speaking right after lunch.

**2) Next Generation Update** - Chip shared a draft of the Next Generation Report and it was agreed that the main points are in good alignment with the Council's policies. The draft calls for increased scholarship funding, a tuition loan forgiveness program, favored by some members as it allows the opportunity to offer incentives for students who wish to pursue education in fields that are an economic development priority. Other recommendations include dual enrolment, increasing funding for the VSAC Non-Degree grant program and an increase for the WET fund. The last two are intended to address what the Commission sees as a lack of access to training for unemployed and underemployed workers. Other recommendations address the need for better career awareness and planning. It was agreed that the report will bring much needed attention to workforce issues.

**3) Discussion of Strategic Private Sector Workforce Partnerships** - Chip opened the discussion by pointing to the increasing interest of business and trade associations in workforce issues and the potential for partnerships with the WDC. The VBR, Homebuilders, AGC, and some Chambers are all expressing concerns and making suggestions and recommendations about workforce training needs. It was suggested that they can have strong role in providing political support for making changes, and through their role at the Statehouse. They would be most effective if they were active in working on making changes in agency policies or in supporting legislative initiatives. The challenge is that different sectors of the economy see workforce issues from unique perspectives. It was agreed that the Council should look at strategic partnerships beyond these private sector groups to include the tech center director's association the Workforce Coalition and others. The basic strategy should be to: 1) engage them one-on-one, 2) Work with them as sectors, 3) solicit their political support, and 4) to focus on areas where there is and need that they can help address.

**4) GBIC Survey Update** - Frank updated the committee. There have been some challenges in getting a good list to mail the surveys to, however they have gone out and are due back within a couple of weeks.

